

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 03016 291213Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----291214Z 124557 /40

P 291117Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1793

S E C R E T AMMAN 3016

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR JO US XF  
SUBJECT: TALK WITH KING ON AREA SITUATION

REF: (A) STATE 115406, (B) STATE 115409, (C) STATE 115244,  
(D) STATE 115664, (E) STATE 116618, (F) SECTO 04139

1. SUMMARY: I BRIEFED KING MAY 28 ON ISRAELI ELECTION, HABIB VISIT TO IRAQ, GROMYKO-VANCE MEETING AND PRESIDENT'S POLICY ON ARMS SALES. KING BELIEVES BEGIN GOVERNMENT PRESENTS SERIOUS DANGER OF RENEWAL OF MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN AREA. ON GROMYKO TALKS HE NOTED PLO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM THREE DAYS AGO AND HAD PRESSED FOR HIS VIEWS ON U.S. ADMINISTRATION. KING HAD LITTLE TO SAY REGARDING OUR CONTACTS WITH IRAQ EXCEPT TO ENCOURAGE THEM. ON ARMS SALES QUESTION, HE NOTED THAT POINTS WHICH I MADE ON RESTRAINT INVOLVING CO-PRODUCTION, SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY, AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW WEAPONS WERE NOT LIKELY TO BE OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO JORDAN. HE APPRECIATED PRESIDENT'S REASSURANCES CONVEYED TO HIM DURING HIS VISIT TO U.S. AND SUBSEQUENTLY DURING MEETING BY ME AS INSTRUCTED. END SUMMARY.

2. ON MAY 28, I SAW KING WHOM I HAD NOT SEEN FOR  
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LAST TEN DAYS BECAUSE OF HIS HAVING BEEN TIED UP WITH SULTAN QABUS VISIT AND IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING JORDAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CEREMONIES.

3. I PROVIDED KING WITH BRIEFINGS ON THE BASIS OF REFTELS. ON ISRAELI ELECTIONS, KING WAS INTERESTED IN DAYAN'S POSSIBILITIES OF BECOMING FOREIGN MINISTER

GIVEN CURRENT INTERNAL DISRUPTION IN ISRAEL OVER THE ISSUE. KING SAID IN CANDOR AND FRANKNESS THAT HE FOUND OUR OWN UNWILLINGNESS TO PREDICT THE SHAPE OF THE FUTURE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OR THE SCOPE OF ITS POLICIES IN ITSELF INDICATIVE OF OUR ATTITUDE ON THE SITUATION. KING SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH ABOUT BEGIN GOVERNMENT. KING CONCLUDES THAT CHANCES FOR MILITARY ACTIVITY BY ISRAELIS HAVE INCREASED, PARTICULARLY IF A BEGIN GOVERNMENT FINDS ITSELF UNNECESSARILY FRUSTRATED AND OUTCAST. HE SAYS THIS IS A MORE WORRYING SITUATION TO HIM GIVEN BEGIN'S WELL-KNOWN VIEWS ON WEST BANK AND THE FACT THAT JORDAN STILL HAS LONGEST BORDER WITH THE ISRAELIS AND IS IN WEAKEST POSITION MILITARILY OF ALL OF THE OTHER ARABS.

4. WE ALSO DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH THE HABIB VISIT TO IRAQ. KING REPEATED AGAIN HIS VIEWS THAT COMMUNICATIONS AND RELATIONS WITH IRAQ ARE IMPORTANT. HE THOUGHT HABIB VISIT WENT ABOUT AS EXPECTED.

5. I ALSO TALKED WITH HIM IN SOME DETAIL ABOUT GROMYKO-VANCE CONVERSATIONS. HE TOLD ME THAT PLO HAD ALSO BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM. THEY CONVEYED SAME MESSAGE AS RUSSIANS HAD ABOUT PLO WILLINGNESS TO DEAL WITH ISRAELIS IF ISRAEL RECOGNIZED PALESTINIANS' RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT STATE. KING SAID ALSO PLO TOLD HIM THEY COULD NOT TAKE SUCH A POSITION "OFFICIALLY." KING SAID HE THOUGHT NOW  
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WAS NOT THE TIME TO BEND OVER BACKWARDS TO DEAL WITH THE PLO, WHICH SHOULD BE MADE TO RECOGNIZE THE DIFFICULT REALITIES THAT FACE THEM. HE SAID HE THOUGHT PLO WAS TRYING TO MAKE A COMEBACK IN THE NEGOTIATING CONTEXT. HE ALSO SAID THE PALESTINIANS SHOWED GREAT INTEREST IN U.S. VIEWS WHICH HE TRIED TO CONVEY AS HE HAD HEARD THEM IN WASHINGTON. HE SUMMARIZED BY SAYING HE TOLD THE PLO THAT THE U.S. WAS NOT TRYING TO EXCLUDE THE PALESTINIANS FROM A SETTLEMENT AND BELIEVED THEY HAD TO BE THERE. (HE DID NOT TELL ME HE HAD SAID THAT PLO HAD TO BE THERE, BUT HE SAID "PALESTINIANS.")

6. ON ARMS SALES QUESTION, KING WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN HOW WE WOULD HANDLE THE MIDDLE EAST. KING REMARKED AGAIN IN CONTEXT OF BEGIN GOVERNMENT ABOUT ISRAELI SUPERIORITY AND HIS CONCERNS OVER THIS POINT. HE ALSO CONCLUDED AFTER I FINISHED MY BRIEFING THAT THE PRESENT EMPHASIS ON RESTRAINT

IN THE AREAS OF SOPHISTICATED  
WEAPONS, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS, AND COPRODUCTION  
WOULD CLEARLY NOT AFFECT JORDAN IN NEGATIVE WAY.  
HE WAS PARTICULARLY PLEASED BY OUR STATEMENTS  
ON HANDLING THE ARMS RESTRAINT IN THE MIDDLE  
EAST WITH BALANCE AND EQUANIMITY. HE WAS GRATEFUL  
FOR REITERATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ABOUT  
DESIRING AND EXPECTING OUR CLOSE RELATIONS WITH  
JORDAN TO CONTINUE.

7. DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTE FURTHER AS DESIRED.  
PICKERING

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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